

Narrow Network: Draft Policy Statement

Consistent with the goal of promoting a patient-centered health care system, the MMA will advocate for benefit design and network contracting policies that allow patients to access the physicians of their choice without financial penalty or increased financial exposure. Similarly, physicians should not be penalized or otherwise constrained from referring patients to the physicians or practices they believe would provide the highest quality care to their patients.

Questions:

- Does this capture the Council's prior discussion/intent?
- Not explicitly included is language regarding cost and quality transparency. MMA does however, have a variety of policies already on that topic – is it important to include that within this policy as well?
- "...without financial penalty or increased financial exposure." The Council expressed a desire to limit patients' exposure to balance billing by non-network physicians/providers. Is this still the intent? If the patient wants to see a physician that charges more (but is higher quality or more convenient) should the patient not be expected to cover that difference? How would price competition otherwise occur?